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HEXAGON



Approved for Release  
Historical Collections Division  
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H FILE  
NO. 412

BYE-111504-71  
Cy 9 of 11  
10 December 1971

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Special Projects

SUBJECT : 1201/RV-3 Recovery

1. Progress

The second dive of the Trieste II sighted the RV and placed a transponder to exactly locate it for the next dive.

No 1  
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2. Current Status

The weather conditions are very bad with 40-50 knot winds and 12+ foot waves. The flotilla has been trying to get within the lee side of an island for several days and, as yet, have not been successful. The island is normally one day from the recovery site. The forecast for the next week calls for better but still marginal conditions starting Monday through Thursday with poor weather the next weekend. The Commodore is being flown in from the White Sands for a meeting with the area commander to determine the best way to proceed. Our input should be made by COB today (10 December 1971).

3. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Navy be notified that, while there is still a desire to recover RV-3 for the intelligence information as well as to establish the capability, the time phasing is not now as critical and the recovery could be delayed until March due to:

- a. The forthcoming 1202 mission.
- b. The despooling facility at Eastman Kodak will be fully occupied in despooling the 1202 mission until mid-February.

GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

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Control System Only

SUBJECT: 1201/RV-3 Recovery

c. The penetration of sea water into the RV-3 film stack would now be at a very low rate.

d. The weather in the recovery area will remain poor through February.

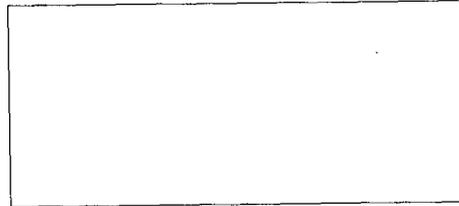
There is still value in recovering RV-3; for instance:

a. This is a data point on construction times of some of the new missile silos.

b. There may still be some unique cloud-free coverage of South China.

c. This has been an excellent learning process and will continue to enable the U. S. to develop a capability to recover deep submerged objects and will provide a future capability.

The Navy is already deployed and would likely not return the flotilla to San Diego since it is 20 days one way, but they would probably appreciate the chance to put into Honolulu to enable the men to have a rest and return home for the Christmas holidays.



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